

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 1-5 have been allowed. However, with regard to Claim 3, Applicant believes that the Examiner's indication of the allowance was in error because Claim 3 was a withdrawn dependent claim that referred back to rejected independent Claim 6. However, in any event, this error has been rendered moot because Applicant has now cancelled Claim 3, without prejudice.

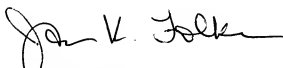
Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication that dependent Claims 9, 18 and 20-22 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if amended into independent form. In response, Applicant has added the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 9 into associated independent Claim 13, and has amended Claims 18, 20 and 21 into independent form. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests an indication of the allowance of independent Claims 13, 18, 20 and 21, and associated dependent Claims 14 and 19. Additionally, Applicant has cancelled Claim 22 because it is redundant with respect to features already defined in associated independent Claim 13.

Finally, Applicant has also added the allowable subject matter of dependent Claim 9 into independent Claim 6, which was not originally associated with Claim 9. Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 6 should be allowed for at least the same reasons that render similar independent Claim 13 allowable. Accordingly, an indication of the allowance of independent Claim 6 and associated dependent Claims 7, 11, 12 and 15 is respectfully requested.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant requests reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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